



04 APR, 2024

Smugglers making moves during 'sahur', 'iftar'

New Straits Times, Malaysia



Page 1 of 2

ILICIT CIGGIES BUST

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KOTA BARU: Smugglers are now bringing illicit cigarettes into the country during the pre-dawn meal and breaking-of-fast period.

The Kelantan Customs Department detected this tactic during its latest operation on Monday.

Its director, Wan Jamal Abdul Salam Wan Long, said 960,000 sticks of illicit cigarettes were seized during the operation near Pantai Cahaya Bulan here.

He said the cigarettes worth more than RM700,000, including unpaid taxes, were seized at an illegal jetty in Kampung Kijang.

There was no one arrested during the operation.

"The smuggling occurred via a sea route about 5am.

"The smugglers used small

boats to transport the cigarettes to the illegal jetty," Wan Jamal said yesterday.

He said initial investigations found that the smugglers brought in the contraband at specific times as they thought no enforcement officers were on duty.

"They thought the border area would be clear of enforcement officers if they smuggle during *sahur* or *iftar*, but they were wrong."

He said the seized cigarettes were believed to be for distribution in the state.

"We suspect the boat owners were hired by the smuggling syndicate to bring in the cigarettes.

"The seizure is the department's biggest this year."



Kelantan Customs director Wan Jamal Abdul Salam Wan Long (second from left) checking seized illicit cigarettes at a press conference in Padang Bongor, Kota Baru, yesterday. PIC BY NIK ABDULLAH NIK OMAR



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Page 2 of 2

SUMMARIES

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